

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02127 080947Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT TO ADD EO TAGS AND SUBJECT
LINES PREVIOUSLY OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA, FR

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PAGE 02 COPENH 02127 080947Z

SUBJECT: FRENCH PREMIER'S VISIT TO DENMARK - THE FRENCH VIEW

REF: COPENHAGEN 2107 AND 2095

1. YESTERDAY FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR ANNE LISSAC GAVE POLCOUNS FRENCH VIEW OF PREMIER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO DENMARK JULY 31-AUGUST 2. SHE SAID THAT VISIT WAS MORE IMPORTANT FOR ITS FORM AND ATMOSPHERE THAN FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS HELD. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE DANES TO FORMER PREMIER MESSMER. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE PRESENT GOVT HAD HAD OCCASION TO VISIT AND ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BUT NOT WITH DENMARK. IN ADDITION, CHIRAC, WHO HAD VISITED DENMARK BEFORE, HAS A PERSONAL LIKING BOTH FOR THE COUNTRY AND THE DANISH PEOPLE.

2. MILLE. LISSAC SAID THAT BOTH THE DANES AND THE FRENCH REGARDED THE VISIT AS VERY SUCCESSFUL. NO NEW SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS WERE OUTLINED ON EITHER SIDE AND NEITHER SIDE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME TO CONVINCE THE OTHER. ACCORDING TO MLLE. LISSAC, THE TREATMENT BY THE DANISH NEWSPAPERS IMPLIED MORE AREAS OF CONFRONTATION THAN IN FACT EXISTED. SHE MAINTAINED THAT THE WEEKEND EDITIONS OF LE MONDE GAVE THE FULLEST AND MOST ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT.

3. THE FRENCH AND DANES AGREED THAT A COMMUNITY SUMMIT BEFORE THE END OF 1974 WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, BUT ONLY IF WELL PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS AND IF PRACTICAL RESULTS APPEARED OBTAINABLE. ALMOST CERTAINLY NO SUMMIT COULD BE HELD UNTIL AFTER THE EXPECTED BRITISH ELECTIONS THIS FALL. (COMMENT: THE DANES WOULD UNDOBUTEDLY BE SURPRISED IF THE "PRECONDITIONS" WERE NOT HELD TO BE FULFILLED SO THAT THE FRENCH COULD PRESIDE OVER A COMMUNITY SUMMIT BEFORE THEIR CHARIMANSHIP EXPIRES.)

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PAGE 03 COPENH 02127 080947Z

4. MLLE. LISSAC SAID CHIRAC HAD COMPARED FRENCH AIDS TO AGRICULTURE, WHICH ADMITTEDLY WERE IN CONTRAVENTION OF CERTAIN MULTILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS, WITH DANISH ECONOMIC MEASURES IN MAY. (THESE DANISH MEASURES, INVOLVING INCREASED EXCISE TAXES ON A NUMBER OF BOTH DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED AND IMPORTED COMMODITIES, HAVE NOT BEEN JUDGED CONTRARY TO EC OR GATT REGULATIONS.)

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY AGREES THAT THE VISIT CAN GENERALLY BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF BOTH THE HOST AND THE GUEST. CHIRAC SEEMED TO COME OVER AS A YOUNGISH, ATTRACTIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "NEW FRANCE" WHO, DESPITE HIS GULLIBLE CREDENTIALS AND HIS DEMARCHES ON FRENCH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION, APPEARED MORE PRAGMATIC AND FLEXIBLE THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. EVEN IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE WAS NO CONCURRENCE OF VIEWS, CHIRAC DID NOTHING TO ANTAGONIZE THE DANES UNNECESSARILY. (HE WAS SHARPEST IN TACKLING OFF FRENCH REPORTERS FOR NOT HAVING DONE THEIR HOMEWORK ON THE AGRICULTURAL ISSUE.) NO NEW SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENTS OR UNDERTAKINGS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE COME OUT OF THE VISIT, NOR WERE ANY REALLY EXPECTED. THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY BOTH PARTIES ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE US WERE PREDICTABLE. THE SUBJECT WHICH CAPTURED MOST INTEREST IN THE DANISH PRESS WAS CHIRAC'S ROLE AS SALESMAN FOR THE MIRAGE, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A SPATE OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE. CROWE

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